AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A storage stable composition of matter comprising:

a positively charged porous matrix comprising polyamide ~~nylon~~; and

a urea derivative dye on at least one surface of said matrix, wherein said urea derivative dye is 10-(carboxymethylaminocarbonyl)-3,7-bis(dimethylamino)phenothiazine or a salt thereof;

wherein said composition is stable for at least about six months at temperatures ranging from at least about -80°C to 60°C under humidity ranging from at least about 0% to 20%.

Claims 2 -5 (Previously Canceled)

6. (Previously Amended) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said urea derivative dye is a member of a peroxide producing signal producing system present on said matrix.

7. (Original) The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additional reagent member of a peroxide producing signal producing system.

8. (Original) The composition according to Claim 7, wherein said at least one additional reagent member is an analyte oxidase.

9. (Original) The composition according to Claim 7, wherein said at least one additional reagent member is a peroxidase.

10. (Original) The composition according to Claim 9, wherein said peroxidase is horseradish peroxidase.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage stable reagent test strip for use in detecting the presence or determining the concentration of an analyte in a physiological sample, said strip comprising:

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a positively charged porous matrix comprising polyamide ~~nylon~~; and

a peroxide producing signal producing system present on said matrix, wherein said peroxide producing signal producing system includes 10-(carboxymethylaminocarbonyl)-3,7-bis(dimethylamino)phenothiazine or a salt thereof,

wherein said test strip is stable for at least about six months at temperatures ranging from at least about -80°C to 60°C under humidity ranging from at least about 0% to 20%.

Claims 12-15 (Previously Canceled)

16. (Original) The test strip according to Claim 11, wherein said peroxide producing signal producing system comprises an analyte oxidase.

17. (Original) The test strip according to Claim 11, wherein said peroxide producing signal producing system comprises a peroxidase.

18. (Original) The test strip according to Claim 17, wherein said peroxidase is horseradish peroxidase.

19. (Currently Amended) An analyte detection or measurement system comprising:

(a) a storage stable reagent test strip comprising:

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(i) a positively charged porous matrix comprising polyamide ~~nylon~~; and

(ii) a peroxide producing signal producing system present on said matrix, wherein said peroxide producing signal producing system includes 10-(carboxymethylaminocarbonyl)-3,7-bis(dimethylamino)phenothiazine or a salt thereof; and

(b) an automated instrument,

wherein said test strip is stable for at least about six months at temperatures ranging from at least about -80°C to 60°C under humidity ranging from at least about 0% to 20%.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the presence or determining the concentration of an analyte in a sample, said method comprising:

(a) applying said physiological sample to a storage stable reagent test strip comprising:

(i) a positively charged porous matrix comprising polyamide ~~nylon~~; and

(ii) a peroxide producing signal producing system present on said matrix, wherein said peroxide producing signal producing system includes 10-(carboxymethylaminocarbonyl)-3,7-bis(dimethylamino)phenothiazine or a salt thereof,

wherein said test strip is stable for at least about six months at temperatures ranging from at least about -80°C to 60°C under humidity ranging from at least about 0% to 20%;

(b) detecting a signal produced by said signal producing system; and

(c) relating said detected signal to the presence or concentration of said analyte in said physiological sample.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said analyte is selected from the group consisting of glucose, cholesterol, alcohol, formaldehyde, L-glutamic acid, glycerol, galactose, glycated proteins, creatinine, ketone body, ascorbic acid, lactic acid, leucine, malic acid, pyruvic acid and uric acid.

22. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said sample is whole blood or a derivative thereof.

23. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said detecting and relating steps are carried out by an automated instrument.

24. (Currently Amended) A kit for use in determining the concentration of an analyte in a physiological sample, said kit comprising:

(a) a storage stable reagent test strip comprising:

(i) a positively charged porous matrix comprising polyamide ~~nylon~~; and

(ii) a peroxide producing signal producing system present on said matrix, wherein said peroxide producing signal producing system includes 10-(carboxymethylaminocarbonyl)-3,7-bis(dimethylamino)phenothiazine or a salt thereof,

wherein said test strip is stable for at least about six months at temperatures ranging from at least about -80°C to 60°C under humidity ranging from at least about 0% to 20%; and

(b) at least one of:

(i) a means for obtaining said physiological sample and

(ii) an analyte standard.

25. (Original) The kit according to Claim 24, wherein said means for obtaining said physiological sample is a lance.

26. (Original) The kit according to Claim 24, wherein said analyte standard comprises a standardized concentration of a known reagent.

27. (Original) The kit according to Claim 24, wherein said kit comprises a means for obtaining said physiological sample and an analyte standard.